

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 14 HEADED "VIETNAM AT THE U.N."

2. THE APPLICATION OF UNIFIED VIETNAM FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
UNITED NATIONS IS SCHEDULED TO COME BEFORE THE SECURITY
COUNCIL TODAY. MR. FORD HAS ORDERED AMBASSADOR WILLIAM W.
SCRANTON TO CAST A UNITED STATES VETO. TWICE BEFORE, THE
UNITED STATES HAS VETOED VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP, FIRST ON THE
GROUND THAT THE TWO SEPARATE GOVERNMENTS OF NORTH AND SOUTH
WERE INSUFFICIENTLY ESTABLISHED IN AUTHORITY, AND THEN--WHEN
THAT PRETEXT FELL APART--BECAUSE THE WORLD BODY WOULD NOT AT
THE SAME TIME CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP FOR THE TWO KOREAS. NOW
THAT SECOND EXCUSE HAS ALSO COLLAPSED: VIETNAM IS NO LONGER
A DIVIDED COUNTRY; THE OLD GOAL OF UNIFICATION HAS CLEARLY
BEEN ACHIEVED UNDER HANOI'S COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP. THE
DUBIOUS KOREAN CONNECTION IS NO LONGER RELEVANT.

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3. IN AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IT MIGHT WELL BE TOO MUCH TO
EXPECT A BELEAGUERED PRESIDENT TO RISK CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT
BY MAKING FRIENDLY GESTURES TO THE FORMER ENEMY IN VIETNAM.
BUT A SIMPLE ABSTENTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHEN VIETNAM'S

UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP COMES UP WOULD HARDLY HAVE CONSTI-
TUDED AN OFFICIAL EMBRACE. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE PERMITTED
THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN GENERAL--AND THE UNITED NATIONS IN
PARTICULAR--TO START FORGING CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL RELA-
TIONSHIPS WITH AN INFLUENTIAL AND RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT
NEW POWER OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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